

BLM LIBRARY



88077808

Healthy Lands

ECONOMIC PROSPERITY



PUBLIC LAND MANAGEMENT

Healthy Economies



HD
243
.W38
H43
1996



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT



U.S. Bureau of Land
HEALTHY LANDS &
HEALTHY ECONOMIES,
ECONOMIC PROSPERITY
PUBLIC LAND

BLM Library
Denver Federal Center
Bldg. 85, OC-521
P.O. Box 25047
Denver, CO 80225

RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

RECREATION is the second largest industry in America. Six million Americans are employed by the recreation and tourism industry, which generates a \$22 billion trade surplus.

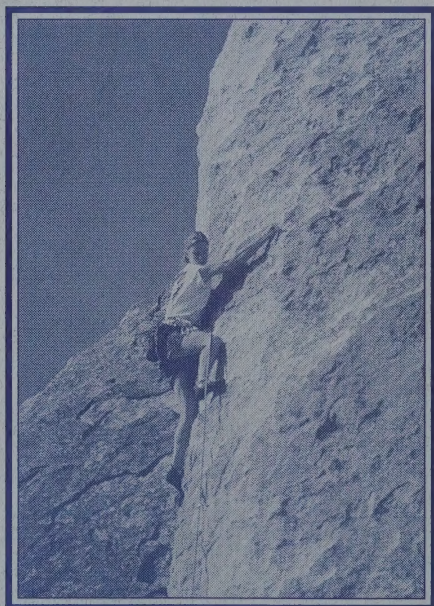
Each year, Americans take more than 1.8 billion trips to go fishing, swimming, boating, or relaxing around water.¹

The multiple-use public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the U.S. Forest Service offer a wide variety of recreational opportunities. These accessible, wide-open spaces are a legacy to be passed on unimpaired to our children.

Many of these public lands are located in the Western United States, close to some of the fastest-growing, most highly urbanized regions of the country. As the country's population grows, demand for recreation and access to open space will continue to increase.

Natural resources on BLM lands include:

- 2.6 million acres of lakes and reservoirs
- 23 million acres of riparian-wetland areas
- 174,000 miles of fishable streams
- 6,664 miles of floatable rivers
- 300 Watchable Wildlife areas
- 19,000 miles of off-road vehicle trails
- 3,179 miles of designated Back Country Byways
- Over 3,000 species of fish and wildlife
- 366,000 antelope
- 1.5 million deer
- 249,000 elk
- 40,000 moose
- 23 million ducks



RECREATION-RELATED REVENUE

IN FISCAL YEAR 1997, the BLM estimates that 66 million recreation-related visits will be made to BLM-managed lands.²

According to preliminary estimates, recreational activity on land managed by agencies within the Department of the Interior (i.e., BLM, U.S. Fish and Wildlife

Service, and the National Park Service) accounted for over \$12 billion worth of economic activity in the Western public land states in FY 1994.³

Western federal land managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the BLM, and the National Park Service generated over 560,000 recreation-related jobs in 1994.⁴

These figures **do not** include the significant economic benefits of federal salaries and services to local communities.



ECONOMIC STATUS OF PUBLIC LAND STATES

OVER THE NEXT 10 YEARS, the economies of the public land states are expected to prosper and grow faster than those of other regions of the country, further increasing the demand for recreation and access to public lands in the West.

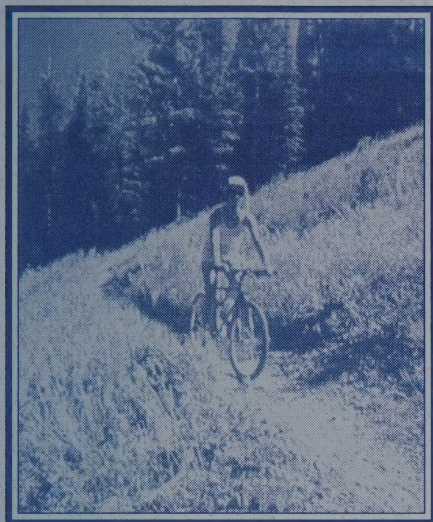
■ The Rocky Mountain states are expected to be the fastest-growing region the next decade, increasing their gross state product by a total of \$65 billion. The gross state product is the market value of all goods and services produced within a state.⁸

■ Nevada, the state with the greatest proportion of public land in the nation, is projected to have the *highest* rate of economic growth of all states, followed by Utah and Arizona.⁹

PROJECTED INCREASES IN JOB GROWTH (1993-2005)

REGION	INCREASE IN JOBS
Far West	5.62 million
Southwest	3.36 million
Rocky Mountain	1.25 million ¹⁰

■ Annual family income in rural counties with public land is about \$2,000 higher than rural counties without a public land base.¹¹



CHANGING WESTERN ECONOMIES

RECREATION-related industries are playing an increasingly important role in the economies of the Western states.

For example, in Wyoming from 1969-1991, employment in mining and agriculture-related industries declined from 17.6%

of the state's employment to 12%. Similarly, mining and agriculture-related industries fell from 17% of the state's total personal income to less than 10%.¹²

The trend in Wyoming is replicated across the West. During 1969-91, the Rocky Mountain states gained 2 million new jobs. Although the traditional extractive industries remain critically important, prosperous Western economies are fueled by jobs in the service, recreation and tourism, and technology fields. For example, from 1969-91, Montana's economy added 141,000 new jobs. During the same period, farming ranching, mining, lumber and wood products lost 7,500 jobs.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION SPURS ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

PUBLIC LANDS are managed under principles of multiple use — ensuring that both traditional extractive industries and the growing

popularity of recreation, aesthetics, and tourism remain part of the fabric of strong and diverse Western economies.

Doomsayers predicted that protection of the northern spotted owl on Forest Service and BLM-managed lands would create a “new Appalachia” of the Pacific Northwest in the late 1980s. Instead, from 1988-1994, the economy of the Pacific Northwest was remarkably strong and productive.

According to 34 independent economists in the Pacific Northwest,¹³ people, businesses, and jobs are moving to the area because of the quality of the environment.

For example, from 1988-1994:

- employment in the Pacific Northwest grew 2.4 times faster than the rest of the United States;
- personal income grew 2.2 times faster;
- average income grew 2.1 times faster;
- earnings increased 2.7 times faster; and
- population increased at twice the rate of the rest of the United States.

According to new residents of the area, the dramatic growth in personal income, job creation, and wages is directly related to the quality of the Pacific Northwest's environment, which draws employers and families to the region. Healthy, diverse, and productive public lands provide countless recreational opportunities. In turn, these activities generate income and produce jobs that diversify the economies of rural communities.



FOOTNOTES

¹ "Liquid Assets: A Summertime Perspective on the Importance of Clean Water to the Economy," Environmental Protection Agency, May 1996.

² Budget Summary 1997, Bureau of Land Management, 1996.

³ Draft *Economic Impacts of Recreational Activity on Federal Lands*. Department of the Interior. 1996. These estimates are presently being refined and updated.

⁴ See fn. 3

⁵ *The 1994 Economic Impacts of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife Related Recreation on National Forest Lands*, American Sportfishing Association, April, 1996

⁶ See fn. 5

⁷ See fn. 5

⁸ "Regional and State Projections of Economic Activity and Population to the Year 2005," *Survey of Current Business* 75:44-71, Bureau of Economic Analysis, 1995.

⁹ See fn 8

¹⁰ See fn 8.

¹¹ "Understanding Rural America," U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service, Agricultural Information Bulletin, 710, 1994.

¹² Ray Rasker, "A New Look at Old Vistas: the Economic Role of Environmental Quality in Western Public Lands," *University of Colorado Law Review*, 1994.

¹³ "Economic Well-Being and Environmental Protection in the Pacific Northwest," a consensus report by Pacific Northwest Economists, December, 1995.



HEALTHY LAND PROMOTES HEALTHY ECONOMIES

**BLM Library
Denver Federal Center
Bldg. 85, OC-521
P.O. Box 25047
Denver, CO 80225**

**BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
WASHINGTON OFFICE • PUBLIC AFFAIRS
1849 C STREET NW, ROOM 504 LS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240**

BLM/wo/GI-96/006